

Adopt-A-Stream Cleanup Action Plan July 2012

1. Goal

Coordinate biannual stream cleanups for the adopted stream segment and engage citizen volunteers in the cleanups.

2. Introduction

Each adopter is responsible for organizing cleanups for their adopted stream segment. Per the program goals, the adopter is expected to remove trash from the stream and its banks twice a year (spring and fall).

3. Planning for the Cleanup

3.1 Selection of Date

The spring and fall cleanups do not have a designated date. Rather, the adopter selects the date for each cleanup 4 to 8 weeks in advance. Typically, the cleanups are held on a weekend and last 1.5 to 2 hours, depending on the number of volunteers and amount of trash to be removed. The spring cleanup can be held in conjunction with the Alice Ferguson Foundation Potomac River Watershed cleanup, which typically occurs in April. The fall cleanup is typically held either in September or October.

3.2 Coordination of Supplies

The City provides all necessary supplies for the cleanup. At least one week prior to the day of stream cleanup, the designated representative should contact the City's Environmental Management Division (EMD) to coordinate pick up of the following items:

1. Appropriate number and sizes of work gloves.
2. Appropriate number of trash bags.
3. One copy of the stream cleanup tally sheet.
4. Five copies of the Adopt-A-Stream "Informed Consent: Liability and Hold Harmless; Public Permission" sheet.
5. Ten copies of "Student Service Learning" sheets.

3.3 Volunteer Outreach

Adopters are encouraged to seek other volunteers to help at the cleanup. Both student and adult volunteers are welcome. Students can earn Student Service Learning (SSL) hours at the cleanup.

Venues for outreach:

- **Newspapers**
 - The Gazette: submit events for Montgomery County community calendar at

- <http://calendar.gazette.net/events/>
 - Montgomery County Sentinel: submit events for calendar at http://mc.thesentinel.com/calendar_entry.php
- ***Social Networks***
 - Advertise the event to your friends, family, and neighbors
- ***Civic Associations***
 - Notify the leadership of the local civic association
- ***Post Flyers***
 - Distribute flyers to households in the immediate vicinity of the adopted stream
 - Grocery stores, Rockville community centers, REI store, restaurants, parks, etc.
- ***Schools***
 - Notify the SSL coordinator at the local middle and high schools

4. Stream Cleanup Procedure and Safety Measures

As volunteers arrive, each individual will be provided with an informed consent form that needs to be completed and signed prior to participation in the cleanup.

At the start of the cleanup, a brief introduction will be given to describe the limits of the cleanup site and guidelines for procedure.

Safety Guidelines: All children under 12 years must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Closed-toed shoes and long pants are recommended. Excavation of the stream banks is prohibited without guidance from City officials. Volunteers are expected to stay within the cleanup project limits.

Volunteers will collect trash and recyclables throughout the stream valley. This includes the immediate stream bed as well as the overbanks. All volunteers will be given trash bags and gloves. Trash is to be collected by hand. If participants wish to enter the stream, waterproof boots or stream waders are recommended. Volunteers should keep track of specific items, such as plastic bags or bottles, as outlined on the tally sheet. Additionally, volunteers should look out for invasive species and for unusual trash items in the streams. As trash bags are filled, they are to be tied closed and placed in a central area for pickup by the City.

Volunteers who are knowledgeable about invasive plant species are encouraged to physically remove such plants under the guidance of a certified Weed Warrior when they are seen within the cleanup area.

Cleanup will continue until the scheduled end time or until the stream is free from trash. If necessary, any SSL hours documentation will be provided at the end of the cleanup. The stream cleanup tally sheet will be completed by the adopter. The tally sheet and signed informed consent forms should be turned in to EMD after the event.